

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated April 26, 2005. This amendment and request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

In the drawings, Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 8 and 9 have been amended to mark illustrated elements of the previously omitted reference numerals. In Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 4a, 5 and 6, the two opposite substantially parallel walls of the first cuts 1 have been marked with the reference numeral 1' and 1'', and the two opposite substantially parallel walls of the second cuts 3 have been marked with the reference numeral 3' and 3''. In Figs. 1, 3 and 4a, the inner surface of the first sheet 2 has been marked with the reference numeral 2', while the first surface thereof has been marked with the reference numeral 2''. Similarly, the inner surface of the second sheet 4 has been marked with the reference numeral 4', while the second surface thereof has been marked with the reference numeral 4''. In Fig. 2, the first (input) and second (output) faces of the light channeling panel 5 have been marked with the reference numerals 5' and 5'', respectively. In Figs. 8 and 9, the light channeling panel has been marked with the reference numeral 5b. No new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended to further specify the present invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawing Figs. 1-10 of the present application. Particularly, the specification has been amended to specify that the first sheet of transparent plastic 2 has an inner surface 2' and a first surface 2'', and that each of the thin first cuts 1 has two opposite, substantially parallel walls

Appl. No. 10/692,791
In re Edmonds, I.
Reply to Office Action of Apr. 26, 2005

1' and 1'' extending inwardly from the inner surface 2' of the first sheet 2. Also, the specification has been amended to specify that the second sheet of transparent plastic 4 has an inner surface 4' and a second surface 4'', and that each of the thin second cuts 3 has two opposite, substantially parallel walls 3' and 3'' extending inwardly from the inner surface 4' of the second sheet 4. No new matter has been added. The antecedent basis for these amendments could be found in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 8 and 9 of the present application.

Claims 1-3 were objected to for reciting the limitation "the normal" having insufficient antecedent basis. Claims 1-3 have been amended, thus rendering this rejection moot. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Milner (US 5,880,886). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

However, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to specify that each of the first cuts 1 has two opposite, substantially parallel walls 1' and 1'' extending inwardly from the inner surface 2' of the first sheet 2, and that each of the second cuts 3 has two opposite, substantially parallel walls 3' and 3'' extending inwardly from the inner surface 4' of the second sheet 4. No new matter has been added. The antecedent basis for these amendments could be found in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 8 and 9 of the present application and the amended specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied prior art document does not meet the standard of anticipation as Milner fails to disclose the first and second cuts having two opposite,

Appl. No. 10/692,791
In re Edmonds, I.
Reply to Office Action of Apr. 26, 2005

substantially parallel walls extending inwardly from the inner surfaces of the first and second sheets. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1 and 2 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cowling (US 5,295,051). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Again, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied prior art document does not meet the standard of anticipation as Cowling fails to disclose the first and second cuts having two opposite, substantially parallel walls extending inwardly from the inner surfaces of the first and second sheets. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Milner in view of Senzo Imai (US 3,393,034). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

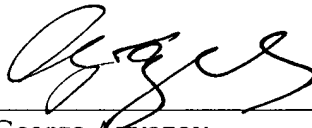
As argued above regarding the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), Milner fails to disclose the first and second cuts having two opposite, substantially parallel walls. Senzo Imai also fails to disclose the first and second cuts having two opposite, substantially parallel walls. Thus, even if the combination of and modification of Milner and Senzo Imai suggested by the Examiner could be made, the resulting light channeling panel still would lack the first and second cuts having two opposite, substantially parallel walls. Therefore, the rejection of claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper.

The examiner failed to substantively examine claims 7-12 entered on October 27, 2003.

Appl. No. 10/692,791
In re Edmonmads, I.
Reply to Office Action of Apr. 26, 2005

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12 define the invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 8 and 9. The replacement sheet, which includes Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 8 and 9, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 8 and 9.

In Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 4a, 5 and 6, the two opposite substantially parallel walls of the first cuts 1 have been marked with the reference numeral 1' and 1'', and the two opposite substantially parallel walls of the second cuts 3 have been marked with the reference numeral 3' and 3''.

In Figs. 1, 3 and 4a, the inner surface of the first sheet 2 has been marked with the reference numeral 2', while the first surface thereof has been marked with the reference numeral 2''. Similarly, the inner surface of the second sheet 4 has been marked with the reference numeral 4', while the second surface thereof has been marked with the reference numeral 4''.

In Fig. 2, the first (input) and second (output) faces of the light channeling panel 5 have been marked with the reference numerals 5' and 5'', respectively.

In Figs. 8 and 9, the light channeling panel has been marked with the reference numeral 5b.

Attachments: Six Replacement Sheets